## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-11** 

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AF-10 TRSE-00 COME-00 INT-08

SCEM-02 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 RSR-01 /146 W

R 190937Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7430 INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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DEPT PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EFIN KU

SUBJ: ARAB MONETARY RESERVES

**REF: STATE 157536** 

- 1. EMBOFFS PRESENTED INFORMATION MEMORANDUM CONTAINING TEXT PARA 4 REFTEL TO ACTING UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY FINANCE AND OIL AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR CENTRAL BANK AS WELL AS TO SENIOR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL. DEPUTY GOVERNOR CENTRAL BANK/HAMZA ABBAS AL-HUSSEIN INDICATED HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN US PAPER BY C-20 REP.
- 2. HAMZA ABBAS IS KUWAITI OFFICIAL MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH ISSUES AND WAS ONLY OFF TOCOMMENT EXTENSIVELY. WHILE AGREEING SUBSTANCE OF PAPER WENT LONG WAY TOWARD SATISFYING CONCERNS OF KUWAIT AND OTHER OIL PRODUCING COINTRIES, HE WAS BOTHERED BY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND POSSIBILITY THAT ALL STATES MIGHT NOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS. REGARDING FORMER HE CONCERNED OVER GOK MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WONDERS WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITH REPORTING SYSTEM OUTLINED IN US PAPER.

- 3. OF SOMEWHAT MORE CONCERN TO HIM WAS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE COUNTRY REFUSED TO GO ALONG. HE ASKS WHAT COULD IMF DO SINCE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WOULD REMAIN. IF PRICE OF OIL IS RAISED, CONSUMPTION PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AND IN ANY CASE, INCOME WOULD RISE FOR EXPORTERS. IF OIL WAS NOT EXPORTED, CONSUMING COUNTRIES WOULD FACE ENERGY CRISIS. IN SHORT, BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT ADJUSTMENT MECHANISMS WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO INDUSTRIALIZED TRADING NATION SUCH AS JAPAN, ARE IRRELEVANT TO CAPITAL EXPORTING, OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WHICH RELY, ESSENTIALLY, ON ONE RESOURCE FOR INCOME AND THAT RESOURCE HAPPENS TO BE IN SUCH HIGH DEMAND THAT IT NOT ONLY IS PRICE INELASTIC BUT VIRTUALLY MUST BE SOLD.
- 4. HAMZA ABBAS INDICATED GOK INTENDS CONSULT ON THESE MATTERS WITH OTHER OIL PRODUCING, CAPITAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES FIRST AND LATER WITH ARAB STATES IN GENERAL.
- 5. COMMENT: EMBOFF STRESSED USG INTEREST IN ARRIVING AT SOLUTION WHICH WOULD SERVE EVERYONE'S INTEREST WHILE AVOIDING INSTABILITY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED MONETARY SITUATION DURING RECENT PAST. HAMZA ABBAS SAID GOK SHARES THIS GOAL AND AGREED THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS USEFUL. HE ALSO AGREED THAT POINTS IN U.S. PAPER REFLECTED AWARENESS OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND REQUIREMENTS OF OIL-PRODUCING, CAPITAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES. IN SHORT HE APPRECIATES SPIRIT BEHIND USG VIEWS. NEVERTHELESS, HE MUST BE DESCRIBED AS SKEPTICAL OVER WHETHER THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED AND IF SO, WHETHER US PLAN CAN REALLY WORK.

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Concepts: POLICIES, PETROLEUM, FINANCIAL RESERVES, INVESTMENTS, EXPORT PRICES

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